

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SUBJ: CONSULTATION ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 140672 (B) STATE 137343

1. SINCE RECEIVING REFTEL A, I HAVE ATTEMPTED SEE EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER OR PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL TO RAISE PROBLEM OF RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE. BOTH EXTREMELY OCCUPIED DUE OPENING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND IMPENDING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. HOWEVER, SECRETARY GNERAL SAMUEL EBOUA FINALLY SAW ME TODAY AND GAVE ME OFFICIAL CAMEROONIAN VIEW ON RECENT EVENTS IN ZAIRE.

2. EBOUA SAID THAT THE GURC HAD A DIFFICULT TIME TAKING A POSITION ON ZAIRE DUE TO THE LACK OF EXACT INFO ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED. HE HEARD THE RADIO AND READ VOLUMINOUS NEWS ACCOUNTS; HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CONTRADICTORY REPORTS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT THE GURC FELT THAT EACH COUNTRY IS FREE TO CALL ON ITS FRIENDS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY AND HE THEREFORE HAD NO PORBLEM WITH THE RECOVERY EFFORTS MADE SO FAR AT THE BEHEST OF GENERAL MOBUTU.

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3. EBOUA MADE CLEAR THAT INSOFAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THESE EFFORTS WERE MERELY PALLIATIVES WHICH WOULD PERHAPS BRING SOME MEASURE OF PEACE AND ENOUGH STABILITY TO SPUR AT LEAST A TEMPORARY ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HOWEVER, THE BASIC PROBLEM OF SHABA REMAINS AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN TERMS OF A LACK OF GENUINE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO EFFECT A RECONCILIATION. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE EXISTENCE OF EXTERNAL FORCES ENCOURAGING THE

KATANGANS TO MAKE INCURSIONS INTO SHABA, HE SAW THE PROBLEMS AS LARGELY INTERNAL (THIS UNCHARACTERISTIC OF GURC WHICH BLAMES MUCH OF REGIONAL INSTABILITY ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS). HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO BRING THIS RECONCILIATION ABOUT, BUT HE FELT THAT GENERAL MOBUTU HAD NOT MADE A GENUINE EFFORT SINCE SHABA I. THEREFORE IN HIS VIEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ANOTHER SITUATION WOULD OCCUR IN SHABA OR ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS UP TO THE FRIENDS OF MOBUTU (AND HERE HE CLEARLY MEANT THE US AS WELL AS FRANCE, BELGIUM, MOROCCO, AND OTHERS AIDING MOBUTU) TO SUGGEST THE MEANS WHEREBY THIS RECONCILIATION COULD TAKE PLACE.

4. BECAUSE OF THE TIME ELEMENT, EBOUA HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN THE OAU'S HAVING BEEN BYPASSED WITH RESPECT TO THE EFFORTS ON BOTH SHABA I AND II. HOWEVER, HE DID ASK MY OPINION OF THE PROPOSED INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AND I REITERATED A POINT THAT WAS MADE IN THE PRESENTATION THAT THE PRESENT RECOVERY EFFORT WAS STRICTLY COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND DID NOT DEPEND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. I SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER AND AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED ONE ON WHICH THE USG HAD AS YET TO TAKE A POSITION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE CONCEPT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, ESPECIALLY ONE COMPOSED SOLELY OF FRANCOPHONE FORCES, GAVE HIM DIFFICULTY, FOR HE PROCEEDED TO TALK ABOUT THE DIVISION BETWEEN "MODERATE" AND "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICAN STATES AND MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS MORE A FALSE DEFINITION BASED ON

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CERTAIN IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS DUE TO UNEQUAL DEVELOPMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT THE KEY TO STABILITY IN AFRICA WAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND IF ZAIRE AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES HAD THE NECESSARY SUPPORT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE IFI'S AND INTERNATIONAL BANKING COMMUNITY TO MEET THEIR ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES, MUCH OF THE CURRENT UNREST AND INSTABILITY WOULD DISAPPEAR. HE NOTED THAT PEOPLE WITH ENOUGH TO EAT TEND TO SUPPORT THEIR GOVERNMENT, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT THIS MIGHT BE A PROBLEM IN ZAIRE.

5. COMMENT: EBOUA AS PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL HAS OVERALL SUPERVISION OF CAMEROON'S FOREIGN AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO, HE GENERALLY RUNS THE COUNTRY. AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, OUR CONVERSATION WILL BE REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT. EBOUA'S VIEWS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF AMBASSADORS OF IBERIA (JENKINS COOPER) AND NIGERIA (MUHAMMAD SANI) EXPRESSED ON JUNE 5. THEY SAW MOBUTU AS CORRUPT AND UNABLE TO COMMAND THE LOYALTY OF HIS ARMY. THE SHABA REBELS, IN THEIR VIEW, ARE INTERESTED ONLY IN UNSEATING HIM. THE PROBLEM OF SHABA WOULD BE RESOLVED ONLY IF HE WOULD STEP DOWN; HOWEVER, THEY ADMITTED THAT THEY KNEW OF NO CANDIDATE TO REPLACE HIM AND THAT TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO GROOM ONE.

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